

LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NEWS RELEASE

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Warner Bros. Pictures and Village Roadshow Pictures Resume Production of Feature Film *The Reaping*

Louisiana film industry continues to rebound from Hurricane Katrina

Baton Rouge, LA – September 21, 2005 – Warner Bros. Pictures and Village Roadshow Pictures officially announced today that production of the film *The Reaping* has continued in Louisiana. The supernatural thriller, a Dark Castle Entertainment production starring Oscar winning actress Hilary Swank, is filming at locations in and around St. Francisville and Baton Rouge.

“On behalf of our cast and crew, we are pleased to be able to complete our filming in Louisiana and to be part of the region’s recovery effort,” said Stephen Hopkins, director of *The Reaping*. On Sunday night, Hopkins accepted the Emmy award for Directing for a Miniseries, Movie or Dramatic Special for *The Life and Death of Peter Sellers*. He praised the Katrina recovery effort and spirit during his acceptance speech.

“We are encouraged by the actions of Warner Bros. Pictures and Village Roadshow Pictures, which come on the heels of the announcement by L.I.F.T. of their two on-going productions in Shreveport,” said Alex Schott, director of the Governor’s Office of Film and Television. “We are also pleased Disney has started pre-production of their feature film *The Guardsman*, starring Kevin Costner and Ashton Kutcher, and that the independent production *Chlorine* will also move to pre-production with a cast including Ray Liotta and David Arquette.”

Schott also confirmed the NIMS Center in Harahan will reopen early October. The center had been the hub of film production in the New Orleans region prior to Hurricane Katrina. It sustained minor damage and will be able to reopen for completion of productions and those that were scheduled to begin in the fourth quarter of 2005.

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